such study was conducted by Ministry of Industry.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Amendment to Patents Act

844. DR. D. VENKATESHWAR RAO: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to amend the Patents Act to cover pharmaceutical, chemical and other industries;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the other steps proposed to safeguard and promote the country's fundamental economic rights in international trade and commerce?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI SIKANDER BAKHT): (a) and (b) The Patents Act, 1970 provides for grant of patents. However in the cases of inventions relating to substances intended for use or capable of being used, as food or as medicine or drug or relating to substances prepared or produced by chemical processes, only process patent is permitted.

(c) India protects and promotes her economic and commercial interests through bilateral discussions and negotiations with other countries, through diplomatic contacts and, through active participation in deliberations in WTO as well as other international fora.

Donations by PSUs

845. SHRI K.R. MALKANI: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether any public sector undertakings have made any donations to any trust or foundation; and

(b) if so, the list of such donees and the amount and year of donation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (SHRI SUKHBIR SINGH BADAL): (a) and (b) Donations to any trust or foundation by public sector undertakings fall within the purview of the respective managements and as such, information in this regard is not maintained centrally.

Changes in Industrial Policy

846. MISS SAROJ KHAPARDE: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) the important changes made in the Industrial Policy during 1997-98 and 1998-99;

(b) what were the main objects of these changes; and

(c) how far these have been helpful in improving industrial production?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI SIKANDER BAKHT): (a) to (c) During 1997-98 and 1998-99, eight sectors had been deleted from the list of industries under compulsory licensing, and two sectors were deleted from the list of industries reserved for the public sector under the Industries (Development and Regulation) Act.

For promoting foreign direct investment (FDI), the list of high priority industries which are eligible for automatic approval for foreign equity has been expanded upto 50%/51%/74%/100% for various sectors. FDI for power projects has been permitted through the automatic route upto 100% subject to foreign equity not exceeding Rs. 1500 crores. The other initiatives include expansion of permitted activities for non banking financial services to 17 activities, allowing multilateral financial institutions to contribute upto 40% in private sector banks and further delegation of power to the Development Commissioners of the Export Processing Zones.

The objectives of the policy changes are to facilitate greater investment in the industrial sector and effecting procedural

simplifications. The policy initiatives of the Government influence the investment decisions of the entrepreneurs and the investment intentions normally take 4 to 5 years time to fructify and contribute to industrial production.

Child Labour Contribution to GNP

847. DR. B.B. DUTTA: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether child labour contributes more than 20 per cent of the country's GNP;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the percentage of GNP contributed by child labour from First to Eighth Five Year Plan period, plan-wise; and

(d) the names of other Asian countries where child labour contributes over 10 per cent of the GNP?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (DR SATYA NARAYAN JATIYA): (a) to (c) The estimates of National Product are derived from the estimates of Domestic Product, which are compiled by kind of economic activity and by broad institutional categories, like organized and unorgnized and public sectors. These estimates are not made by age-group.

(b) No such information is available.

Working of Sub-regional Employment Exchange, Curzon Road

848. SHRI GHUFRAN AZAM,: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased refer to Unstarred Question 361 given in the Rajya Sabha on 27th July, 1998 and state:

(a) whether it is a fact that pendency is tremendously increasing day by day in the Sub-Regional Employemnt Exchange, Curzon Road, New Delhi;

(b) whether it is also a fact that some Members of Parliament have apprised through the letter dated 7th September, 1998 about numerous irregularities of the present S.R.E.O./Curzon Road; and

(c) if so, the comments of Director, Employment Exchanges and the guidelines of CVC to allow to continue the said officer on such a sensitive seat?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (DR. SATYA NARAYAN JATIYA): (a) Though there was increase in the number of pendencies in the Sub-Regional Employment Exchange, Curzon Road, now functioning at Kirby Place, Delhi Cantt. for sometime in the past but the pendencies prior to 30.08.1998 have now been liquidated.

(b) The allegations made in the letter are still under enquiry by the Anti-Corruption Branch, Dte. of Vigilance, Govt. of National Capital Territory of Delhi.

(c) The Sub-Regional Employment Officer concerned has been transferred in public interest.

Unemployed Persons in Manipur

849. SHRI J. CHITHARAJAN:
SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA:

Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) the number of unemployed in live register of employment exchanges in Manipur at the end of the years 1995, 1996 and 1997; and

(b) the number of new registrants and placements during these years?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (DR. SATYA NARAYAN JATIYA): (a) and (b) The number of job seekers, all of whom need not necessarily be unemployed, registered and placed by the Employment Exchanges in Manipur during 1995, 1996 & 1997 together with the Live Register were as follows:

(In thousand)